

Key Principles for Operating Relationships with Community Centres

Recommendation

THAT the Board endorse specific key principles (equity among community centres; access for residents to a network of community centres; protection of vulnerable populations; financial sustainability) to guide improvements to the operating relationships between the Park Board and local community associations.

Background

- Community Centre operating relationships between Park Board and community associations are outlined in Joint-Operating Agreements (JOA)
- A Park Board/Community Association task force recommended updating these agreements in 2005
- Updates to the operating relationships are necessary to better serve residents of the city and maximize the use of available resources

Background

- Budget Consultation Meetings (Jan, Feb 2010)
- Principles were used to guide discussions:
 - Fairness/Equity among community centres
 - Access to a network of community centres
 - Standardization and sharing of services
 - Openness and transparency
 - Protection of vulnerable populations
 - Independence of community associations
- Memorandum of Agreement (Mar 2010)
 - New Funding Provisions for 2010 from Community Associations
 - Commitment to discuss improvements to operating relationships, starting in April 2010

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Principles

- Equity among community centres
 - Resource allocations to centres (Core Services)
- Access for residents to a network of centres
 - Common program policies, standards, value
- Protection of vulnerable populations
 - Access to recreation services regardless of financial, circumstance, age, physical abilities, etc
- Financial sustainability
 - Sustainable within the borders of community centre operations (Park Board/Community Association resources)

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Timeline

- Time is of the essence:
 - 2011 budget development begins in fall 2010

- Initial consultation meeting between representatives of all community associations and staff on operating relationship improvements:
 - Mid-April 2010

- Small group meetings between representatives of individual associations and staff:
 - May – June 2010

- Recommendation(s) to Park Board:
 - June 2010